

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH  
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**January 8, 2013**

**MINUTES**

**The form and content of these minutes conform to commonly accepted standards and shall become the official record of the meeting after review and approval by the School Committee. By definition, minutes are not a verbatim record for the proceedings.**

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Mark Rafanelli, Vice-Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, Lee Kissinger, and Claudine Pande. Members absent: Teri Maia-Cicero, Chairwoman. Others present: Superintendent James H. Erinakes, II, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Student Member Hannah Morgan

**ORDER** – Vice Chair Rafanelli called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

**Open Forum** – None

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION – School Committee Member**

**Assignments** – Members indicated if they were interested in serving on a particular standing committee.

The outcome of the School Committee Organization Assignments is as follows:

Graduation Team (2)	Cicero, Zuercher
Exeter Council Liaison (1)	Donovan
West Greenwich Council Liaison (1)	Kissinger
Curriculum Director Liaison (1)	Pande, Cicero
Legislation Action Group Liaison (1)	Pande, Rafanelli
Food Service Liaison (1)	McFadden, Zuercher
Career & Tech. Centers (1)	McFadden
District Improvement Team (3)	Zuercher, Rafanelli, Pande
Transportation Subcommittee (2)	Zuercher, Kissinger
Policy Subcommittee (2)	McFadden, Pande, Cicero
Health and Wellness/School Wellness (2)	Zuercher, *Cicero (*pending confirmation from Cicero)
Building Committee/ NE-CHPS Advisory Design Committee (2)	Rafanelli, Kissinger
Town Finance/Charter Review (2)	Rafanelli, Kissinger
IT Subcommittee (2)	Rafanelli, Kissinger, Cicero
Public Relations Subcommittee (2)	Pande, Rafanelli
District Emergency Response Planning Team (1)	Pande, Zuercher, Rafanelli

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report** – Student Member Morgan reported the Girls’ Gymnastic team won its two meets this past weekend. The Boys’ Basketball team holds a 5 – 1 record and the Girls’ Basketball team remains undefeated. The In-door Track team did very well at its meet last Friday. Student Council sponsored a Food Drive during the months of November and December and collected over 400 canned good items. Sr. Project Presentations began this week. First semester exams begin in two-weeks. Overall, student morale is good.

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA-** Superintendent Erinakes gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. He answered members’ clarifying questions regarding the *Bills, Recall, and Art Teacher appointment*.

McFadden requested to pull the Special Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2012. He asked that the minutes be amended to reflect reference to a complaint made by School Committee members about him, and a statement made by the Chair to resolve the issue of him talking too long and repeating himself during meetings.

McFadden recommended the following wording be added to the December 12 minutes:

*Paul McFadden, a member of the School Committee, his behavior was mentioned at this meeting. The chairperson had identified she had received complaints from members about his dialogue being repetitive and lengthy. The chairperson identified that she had taken action by stopping him in School Committee meetings and interrupting him.*

Vice Chair Rafanelli asked if members objected to McFadden’s request. Pande and Kissinger said they did not remember that dialogue. Rafanelli said he did remember a conversation.

Rafanelli advised the minutes would be brought back with modifications to the next regular meeting for consideration.

Kissinger moved to accept the consent agenda with the modifications just discussed; seconded by McFadden. Motion passed (6-0).

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of December 11, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of December 11, 2012**
- B. Personnel Items**
  - 1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**
    - a. Cristina Wall as Webmaster at Lineham School, Annual Stipend \$892.78; effective January 9, 2013**

- b. Cristina Wall as Webmaster at Lineham School, Annual Stipend \$892.78; effective January 9, 2013
- c. Christine (Smith) Lonergan as 1.0FTE Art Teacher at the Junior High School and Wawaloam School, (Second Semester – Sabbatical Leave position), Step 2, Bachelors, Annual Salary \$40,241; effective January 22, 2013 – June 21, 2013
- 2. Leaves of Absence
- 3. Resignations
- 4. Grievances
- 5. Non-Renewals
- 6. Recalls – (ENCLOSED) – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)
  - a. See Attached *Additional List – January 8, 2013*
- 7. Sabbaticals
- C. Bills – In the amount of \$519,711.76
- D. Home School Approval
- End Consent Agenda

**Correspondence** – (1) 8/28/12 – 12/31/12 Discipline Reports; (2) Draft Working Document, December 18, 2012 Goals for EWG 1-1 Device Implementation; (3) Letter to Lineham/Wawaloam Staff from Substitute Principal Richtarik; (4) Letter to Lineham/Wawaloam Parents from Substitute Principal Richtarik; (5) Email Response to the Superintendent from Exeter Town Clerk regarding Charter Review Commission Exeter Town Council Representative; (6) K-3 Common Core Math Survey Summary and Responses from the Superintendent

In response to Member Pande's inquiry, Erinakes reported the only reply he received to his communications for Charter Review Commission representatives was from the Town of Exeter. Kissinger said he reached out to the West Greenwich Town Council during its December meeting. He will attend next Wednesday's meeting to follow up. Erinakes advised that at this time there are not enough volunteers to fulfill the composition of the subcommittee in its original format.

**2012 – 2013 Budget Projection** – Mr. Ross reported that given the state of flux around revenues and with agreement from Chair Cicero, the 2012 – 2013 projection would be brought to the committee in February.

**2013 – 2014 Initial Draft Working Budget** – Mr. Ross reported the 2013 – 2014 Budget would be ready on Friday. The delay in bringing the report to the committee tonight was to allow additional time for formatting a more efficient report.

**MONTHLY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Policy Subcommittee** – Member Pande referenced policy subcommittee member Bill Clay's insert revolving around the national criminal background check. It is apparent that since there is not legislation on the

books in Rhode Island to require a background check, let alone a national background check for volunteers, that the Attorney General's office and the State Police will not initiate background screenings. West Greenwich Police Department (WGPD) will initiate national background check for volunteers; however, this service would be available only to West Greenwich residents. Mr. Clay has suggested contacting the district's state senators and representatives. Pande offered to handle that task.

McFadden proposed that, should the committee decide to reinstate a School Resource Officer (SRO) on a full time basis, to include as part of that officer's responsibilities conducting volunteer BCI screenings.

An overall discussion ensued relating to the previous, existing, and future SRO position.

Rafanelli redirected the discussion to the *Monthly Policy Subcommittee Report* and questioned where the committee would like to go with Mr. Clay's recommendation. Pande offered her opinion that contacting the school district's state senators and representatives was a good idea and a way to try to get legislation on the books. She reiterated her offer to take on that task.

**IT Subcommittee** – Superintendent Erinakes advised he provided the first draft of goals for Phase 2 of the technology assessment process is *Correspondence*. The District is preparing shortly to enter into Phase 3.

Vice Chair Rafanelli asked at what point in the process the committee could expect an assessment report. Erinakes said the final report would come at the end however, the vendor agreed to provide information during the process. Therefore, it would most likely depend on when Phase 3 is initiated. Mr. Ross added that the vendor was informed that the District would like to capture some of that information for budgeting purposes.

**Public Relations Subcommittee** - None

**MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent** – Pande thanked the administrators for the excellent work they did during the Newtown, Connecticut tragedy.

McFadden noted that the senior high school main doors were locked when he arrived this evening. He questioned how the district ensures that community members using the facility for extracurricular activities are able to gain appropriate access. Erinakes said that typically the main entrance is unlocked. It was determined that a custodian locked those doors tonight due to an oversight. Kissinger asked if classroom doors were locked at the end of the school day. He speculated that an intruder could gain access during evening hours, go undetected, and hide in a classroom. Erinakes said he presumed a majority of classroom doors would be locked at the end of the day. However, he could not guarantee that so he could send out a reminder to all staff.

**Business** – No comments/questions

**Special Education** – In response to Member Pande's question, Erinakes said there would not be a financial impact for three students who would be transitioning back into the district. In fact, there would probably be a financial benefit. Specifics about the financial structure resulting from the change would be brought to the committee when the transition is complete. Erinakes offered a brief summary of anticipated cost/expense and noted the cost would be much less than the expense. The plan is that these children would stay in district next year. Therefore, that cost of savings would be for the length of the entire year next year.

**Maintenance** – Rafanelli recapped that at the last meeting he requested information from Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley about deficient outside lighting/signage at the high school.

Mr. Ross said he received that information from Mr. Plumley in a raw format. He offered a brief summary of the information and said a report would be prepared to bring to members at the next regular meeting.

Rafanelli thanked administration for the awesome job it did after the Connecticut school shooting tragedy. However, he said as a senior high school parent he never received any of the information sent out to parents. He voiced concern that a portion of the school community was not provided with information.

Superintendent Erinakes explained that the process for distribution of his initial communication was exactly the same for all of the schools. He did not receive any negative comments. His sister who lives in district received the notices sent out to the junior and senior high schools, which confirms it was sent out. He wondered if the issue was more about the accuracy of the listserv and/or the fact that there was an issue with Cox email at the exact same time that caused it to be down for three days. The Superintendent said he was unsure of what the resolution would be because he is unsure of the cause. He could however confirm that the process did happen.

**Technology** – No comments/questions

Student Member Hannah Morgan left the meeting at this time, (6:55 p.m.).

Zuercher made a motion to move up High School Emergency Generator Discussion; seconded by Kissinger. Motion passed (6-0).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – High School Emergency Generator Discussion** – Electrical Engineer Bob McClanaghan disseminated layout diagrams as backup to his feasibility report for installing an emergency generator at the high school. Three different

options were offered and a summary of the plans used to obtain cost estimates was presented.

- Option A was the same as presented to the School Committee at its meeting last month, which would use a 500-kilowatt generator with 4000 amp Automatic Transfer Switch at a cost estimate of \$350,000.
- Options B and C would use a 200-kilowatt generator, which could power about half of the load of the school. Option B would use an automatic transfer switch at a cost estimate of \$300,000. Option C would use a manual transfer switch at a cost estimate of \$245,000.

McClanaghan said the work driving up the cost of this project is that the generator would be located in the field across from the loading dock. That work would require trenching through over 100-feet of asphalt, which is very costly. Mr. McClanaghan and Superintendent Erinakes answered members' clarifying questions. A lengthy discussion ensued and members shared their views and comments. The School Committee tasked Superintendent Erinakes with seeking out possible grant funding for the generator project. Erinakes said he could contact EMA and proceed on moving forward with seeking funding but felt the committee/administration would have to move forward soon because there is some chance a decision has to be made on the use of the Capital Fund balance and whether to use it to fund this project or other priorities.

McFadden asked the Superintendent to inform the Grant Writer of upcoming workshops offered in Massachusetts to learn how to fill online proposals for FEMA and Fireman's Fund grants.

Rafanelli summarized that the committee wished to first pursue options for funding an emergency generator before deciding whether to do the project. He thanked Mr. McClanaghan for his work.

Pande moved to go back to *NEW BUSINESS – School Resource Officer*; seconded by Donovan. Motion passed (6-0).

**NEW BUSINESS – School Resource Officer** – Member Pande stated she brought this item to the agenda. She proposed to discuss bringing back a School Resource Officer (SRO) this year for more time. Currently an SRO is here 4 hours per week, one hour per day. The Superintendent has already included a full time SRO in the budget for next school year.

Superintendent Erinakes shared information he gathered in conversation with West Greenwich Police Chief Ramsey for budgeting an SRO for next school year. The cost of a patrol officer's full salary with benefits is \$89,174. That is the entire cost to put an

officer on staff. If by chance, the School Committee wanted to investigate adding more time for an SRO this year, at this point the only possibility to staff an SRO is through overtime because the department is currently short an officer and would have to send someone else through the academy, which is a process. The overtime rate for a patrol officer is roughly \$26 per hour. Member McFadden questioned if the \$89,000 compensation was for 248 days of service or for 180 days (the school year). Erinakes was uncertain but said that could easily be determined. If the committee decides to add time this year, at this point it would be overtime, which equals a little less than \$40 per hour. A six-hour day equals \$240 per day, which adds up.

Pande said she based her calculations on having an SRO in district for four hours per day and estimated it would cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000 for this year. She offered to research if funds for this year would be available through private funding. She would come back to the committee if she is unsuccessful or only finds partial funding. Based on research she did, she offered a list of benefits an SRO provides to a community.

- Preventative discipline
- Frees up administrators from investigating rumors
- Confidant and resource for the children
- Provides classroom education – anti bullying – cyber bullying - drugs
- Refer kids to proper counseling

Pande offered her opinion that an SRO is important to have. She had the SRO on her agenda to discuss with the committee back in September. Her reason for bringing back the SRO this year was for all the resources an SRO brings to a community. It is not by any means making sure an armed officer is in a school. She is not bringing this forward because of the tragedy that took place in Connecticut.

Member McFadden left the meeting at 7:34 p.m. and returned at 7:37 p.m.

She said that given the current times, there is no reason not every school should have an SRO with the resources that are provided. The calculations she presented may be wrong, but it is a minor amount of money for what is provided.

A lengthy discussion ensued and members shared thoughts, comments, and opinions on the need for, role of, and funding of an SRO for this year and in the future.

Vice Chair Rafanelli thanked Member Pande for researching this matter.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Capital Project Update** – Mr. Ross reported he is in communication with Joe DaSilva of the office of statewide efficiencies at RIDE regarding the bond project completion/closeout documents. He is also waiting for clarification on how long the building committee remains standing.

**Reports/Comments** – In response to Member Pane's inquiry, Superintendent Erinakes said that Wawaloam School substitute Principal Denise Richtarik would be introduced to the School Committee at the January 22 meeting.

Rafanelli stated that at the January 23 Boy' Basketball game, the Girls' Soccer team would receive a national award during halftime. The team ranked among the top twenty nationwide. He encouraged members to attend if possible.

Rafanelli reminded members that immediately following the January 22 regular School Committee meeting, a Budget Workshop would take place. The Budget Workshop had been originally scheduled for January 23. Now, there is a Negotiations Meeting set for January 23.

Kissinger offered one additional thought regarding an SRO. He proposed to have police presence during the start and end of the school day to show visibility. Donovan said that was a good point however, would be a cost to the communities.

**Important Dates and Meetings** – Tuesday, January 22, 2013-School Committee Meeting and Budget Workshop; Wednesday, January 23, 2013-Negotiations; Tuesday, January 29, 2013-Budget Workshop; Thursday, February 7 2013-Joint Meeting; Tuesday, February 12, 2013-School Committee Meeting; Monday, February 25, 2013-Joint Meeting; Tuesday, February 26, 2013-School Committee Meeting (*Budget Adoption*)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5** – None

**Adjournment** – Zuercher moved to adjourn; McFadden seconded the motion. Motion passed (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO  
CLERK